Losses in UTI Schemes

3732. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rs. 2,632 crore hole in Six UTI Schemes" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated 26th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the resource crunch do not stand in the way of the depositors getting back their invested amount togetherwith the committed returns even if the schemes fail to perform?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of possible shortfalls in UTI's Monthly Income Plans (MIP) maturing in 2002. These schemes are within the regulatory purview of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and SEBI has intimated its views to UTI in the matter.

Target for direct tax collection during 2002-2003

3733. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 36 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the target of tax collection has been fixed for the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Budget Estimates for 2002-2003 are as under:

Corporation tax	Rs. 48616 crore
Income tax	Rs. 42524 crore
Customs	Rs. 45193 crore
Central Excise	Rs. 91141 crore

The Government have taken a number of measures to improve tax realization, which include rationalization of tariff structure, simplification of procedures, widening of the tax base, realization of arrears, and speedy disposal of the pending cases.

Fraud in Oriental Bank of Commerce, Panipat

3734. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fraud was reported in Oriental Bank of Commerce, Panipat regarding their letter of credit No. 253/99 for US $285000/-;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bank failed to handle documents properly and acted negligently by not pointing out the major discrepancies in the L/C and also misrepresented the facts before appropriate authority;

(c) if so, the reasons for making haste payment on forged documents and putting a huge loss to Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against bank officials for their negligent act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) No Sir. Oriental Bank of Commerce has reported that an import LC for USD 285000/ was opened by Panipat Branch on 26.8.1999. The documents under LC were received from Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, UAE. The branch pointed out certain discrepancies in the documents to the negotiating bank and contacted the applicant who accepted all the deficiencies in the documents in writing and indicated the same may be conveyed to the beneficiary bank. The bill of exchange accepting the documents with all the discrepancies was subsequently signed and the acceptance was conveyed to the foreign negotiating bank. However, before the due date 25.11.1999 the principal debtor filed a